

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-7, 9, 10, 12-16, 18, 19, and 21-23 are currently pending in the present application, Claims 8 and 11 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by way of the present amendment, and Claims 1, 9, 10, 18, and 19 having been amended by way of the present amendment. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the title of the specification was objected to; Claims 1, 3-7, 10, 12-16, 19, and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Schwabe (U.S. Pat. No. 6,986,132, hereinafter "Schwabe"); and Claims 8, 9, 17, and 18 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.


The title has been amended to address the objection to the specification. Accordingly, the objection to the specification is believed to have been overcome.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the identification of allowable subject matter in Claims 8, 9, 17, and 18. In an effort to expedite prosecution of this application, Claim 1 has been rewritten to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 8, and Claims 10 and 19 have been rewritten to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 17. Accordingly, Claims 8 and 17 have been canceled, leaving only allowed claims pending. Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 10, and 19 (and the claims dependent therefrom) are respectfully submitted to be allowable.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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